

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11 (Canceled).

12. (New) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a first substrate;

a second substrate;

a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate;

and

a plurality of picture element regions each defined by a first electrode provided on a face of the first substrate facing the liquid crystal layer and a second electrode provided on the second substrate so as to oppose the first electrode via the liquid crystal layer sandwiched therebetween,

wherein the first electrode includes: (a) a solid portion including a plurality of sub-electrodes and a plurality of contact portions each for mutually electrically connecting at least some of the sub-electrodes, and (b) at least one opening in each of the plurality of picture element regions,

the liquid crystal layer is in a substantially vertical orientation state in at least part of each of the plurality of picture element regions when no voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode, and

when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode, a plurality of liquid crystal domains each in a radially-inclined orientation state are formed in the at least one opening and the solid portion by inclined electric fields generated at least at an edge portion of the at least one opening of the first electrode, for producing a display by changing orientation states of the plurality of liquid crystal domains in accordance with the applied voltage.

13. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 12, wherein the at least one opening includes a plurality of openings having substantially the same shape and substantially the same size, and the plurality of openings form at least one unit lattice arranged so as to have rotational symmetry.

14. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of openings is in a rotationally symmetrical shape.

15. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of openings is in a substantially circular shape as viewed from above.

16. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 13, wherein each region of the solid portion surrounded with the plurality of openings is in a substantially circular shape as viewed from above.

17. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 12, wherein, in each of the plurality of picture element regions, a total area of the at least one opening of the first electrode is smaller than an area of the solid portion of the first electrode.

18. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 12, further comprising a protrusion within the at least one opening, wherein a cross-sectional shape of the protrusion taken in a plane direction of the substrate is the same as a shape of the corresponding opening,

a side face of the protrusion has orientation-regulating force for orienting liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer in the same direction as an orientation-regulating direction obtained by the inclined electric fields.